

Application No.: 09/914562

Case No.: 54834US007

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 10-14, and 16-19 are pending. Claims 8, 9, and 15 have been canceled. Claims 1, 12, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 18 and 19 have been added

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,158,156 issued to Patrick (hereinafter US '156). Applicants submit that the pending claims are not anticipated by US '156.

US '156 discloses a display panel that includes a substrate that is glass or plastic. A layer of flaked iridescent material can be applied to the substrate. This reference does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1. There is no disclosure that the substrate is a polymeric film. There is no disclosure that the substrate has a colored layer on one side of a polymeric substrate and an adhesive layer on the other side of a polymeric film substrate. There is no disclosure of a clear polymeric layer on a side of the colored layer opposite the substrate.

Claims 1-7 are not anticipated by US '156. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection based on lack of novelty over this reference.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0578829 issued to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter EP '829) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,370,913 issued to Lin (hereinafter US '913) and U.S. Patent No. 5,766,702 issued to Lin (hereinafter US '702). Applicants submit that the pending claims are not obvious over this combination of references.

There is no disclosure in EP '829 of a decorative film having multiple layers arranged in the following order: an adhesive layer, a transparent polymeric film substrate, a colored layer, and a clear layer. There is no disclosure of a colored layer having the claimed thickness. There is no disclosure of an adhesive layer on the side of the polymeric substrate opposite the colored layer. There is no teaching of a clear polymeric layer on the side of the colored layer opposite the polymeric substrate.

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EP '829 discloses applying the colored layer directly to a window pane rather than by application of a decorative film that includes the colored layer to a window pane as recited in claims 10-14, 16-17, and 19 of the present invention. That is, there is no disclosure in this reference of a structure that includes in the following order: a window pane, adhesive layer, transparent polymeric substrate, colored layer, and clear polymeric layer.

The deficiencies of EP '829 are not overcome with the disclosures in US '913 and US '702. US '913 and US '702 disclose laminated ornamental glass articles having two transparent glass substrates and three coating layers between the two transparent glass substrates. The structures disclosed in these references have the following order: glass, glaze painting, white coating, ink coating, adhesive layer, polyester or glass plate. There is no disclosure of a decorative film having the structure recited in claim 1 of the present application. The adhesive is not used to attach a decorative film to a window pane (i.e., the adhesive is not used to join a window pane to a transparent polymeric substrate). There is not a colored layer between a transparent polymeric substrate and a clear polymeric layer.

The combination of references does not teach all the limitations of claims 1-15. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on obviousness over these references.

In view of the above, it is submitted that pending claims 1-7, 20-14, and 16-19 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Any fees due should be charged to or any overpayment should be credited to Deposit Account No. 3-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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